

family vacationers, and outdoor enthusiasts throughout the United States and around the globe. They are attracted by Nevada's many unique features, including the fabulous Las Vegas Strip, the Hoover Dam and beautiful outdoor settings ranging from vibrant desert landscapes to grand ski slopes.

Nevada exemplifies the independence, opportunity and pioneering spirit of the West. So I join my fellow Nevadans in celebrating our 145th anniversary.

THE ATHALIE RANGE CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize the Athalie Range Cultural Arts Foundation and its upcoming annual Celebration of Life event honoring those who have made significant contributions to the African American community. This year, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey Edmonson, WHQT General Manager Jerry Rushin, and retired Bacardi Heritage Foundation president Jose Bacardi will be honored.

The Athalie Range Cultural Arts Foundation helps to encourage the appreciation and the enrichment of arts, especially of African American arts, in south Florida. The foundation was named after one of south Florida's most dedicated and courageous residents.

Athalie Range was a pioneer in our community, first as a civil rights activist and later as a public official. As the PTA president of Liberty City Elementary, she became a champion for the students of Miami-Dade County. She informed the school board about the deplorable conditions of Liberty City schools, and she demanded better resources for those schools.

Athalie became the first African American to serve on the Miami City Commission, and she also became the first African American and the first woman to head the Florida Department of Community Affairs. Athalie Range lived a life of humility that underscored her deep commitment to civil rights, justice and opportunity for all.

I commend the Athalie Range Cultural Arts Foundation for continuing in Athalie's footsteps, for helping to support the arts and for enriching the lives of all of south Florida residents.

ENERGY

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, in January, President Obama took office while facing the worst economic crisis in generations.

Faced with that tremendous challenge, President Obama and the Democratic Congress responded with the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, an aggressive plan to jump-start our economy and to create jobs.

As we look back on the Recovery Act's first 8 months, its success in averting catastrophe is clear. We are not out of the woods yet, and much more work remains to create good jobs and to lower unemployment; but there are positive signs that the recession is over and that the economic policies pursued by the Democrats are starting to work.

Just last week, the Obama administration made important announcements to invest \$3.4 billion into the smart energy grid and into the first round of awards under the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, or the ARPA-E program. These announcements by the administration show that the Recovery Act is working, giving investors the confidence they need to leverage private funds to create new clean-energy jobs to put people back to work and to revolutionize the way we power our economy and drive American innovation.

PELOSI'S TAKEOVER IS BAD FOR JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi takeover bill is nearly 2,000 pages of regulations and tax hikes that will strangle small businesses across America. At the same time we celebrate the new jobs being created by Boeing in South Carolina, the Pelosi takeover will destroy jobs, and we must stop it.

Senior citizens are under attack by squeezing Medicare. The Pelosi takeover will impose \$135 billion in taxes on small businesses. In addition, this bill includes nearly \$500 billion in other taxes, including a surtax on small businesses. The Nation's largest small business association, the National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, reports that this employer mandate will negatively impact small businesses, eliminating 1.6 million jobs.

I encourage Speaker PELOSI to scrap her health care takeover and to work across the aisle with Republicans to adopt elements of H.R. 3400 and to give small businesses the opportunity to pull together to receive competitive rates.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, when I went home, I went to the laundry.

A gentleman came up to me and said, You know, we've been friends for 40

years, and you're more liberal than I am—I'm a conservative—but let me tell you that I had a heart attack last month. Do you know what it cost? It cost \$100,000. He said, Y'all have got to pass something with this health care. It's just too expensive, and if I were in a different situation, I might lose my health care and might not be able to get it.

I had a Halloween party at a friend's house. I'm 60, and my friends are within the margin of error. They're about the same age. Several of them had had cancer, and they talked about how they couldn't get out of their health policies. The premiums were going up. The deductibles were going up, and it was costing them more and more; and they weren't authorizing certain treatments that they needed.

They said, You need to pass that health care bill. It's important.

I went to my local pharmacy, and a lady came up to me, and she told me about what the cost of prescription drugs was doing to her. I told her we were going to close the doughnut hole, that we were going to help her with her prescription drug prices.

We need to get this country's health care policy where it doesn't destroy the financial condition of people's lives. We need to allow them to move on.

THANKING THE AIRMEN OF BARKSDALE

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, my district in northwest Louisiana was hit with severe storms and tornadoes which left neighborhoods tattered, families without homes, and thousands threatened by levees that were threatening to break.

On Friday night, Bossier Parish officials had exhausted all options to save this levee when many citizens and especially the airmen of Barksdale Air Force Base mobilized to protect this community. Colonel Steven Basham assembled 140 airmen; and through their efforts, the levees were saved that night.

Over the days that followed, over 400 airmen worked around the clock to protect the levees, the homes and the families that surrounded it. Enlisted, officers and even generals worked side by side in an effort to make sure that floodwaters did not destroy Bossier Parish.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude for their dedication and work during this natural disaster; and I want to say that the efforts of these airmen prove, once again, why the United States military is the greatest assemblage of outstanding men and women in the world.